

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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UNCLAS KINGSTON 4460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, NO, JM
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS JAMAICA
AND SIGNS \$25 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT

REFS: (A) KINGSTON 6916, (B) OSLO 5072

1. SUMMARY. NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI MADE A FIVE-DAY STATE VISIT TO JAMAICA MAY 24-28. THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE VISIT WAS THE SIGNING OF A \$25 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FROM NORWAY BY BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES. TALKS FOR THIS AGREEMENT WERE INITIATED DURING THE VISIT TO NORWAY IN NOVEMBER 1977 BY GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY (SEE REFTELS). THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS ALSO SIGNED A SHIPPING COOPERATION AGREEMENT. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, MR. NORDLI RESTATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EMBODIED IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER
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AND A COMMON FUND TO ASSIST IN BUFFER STOCKING AND STABILIZING COMMODITY PRICES. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE LINE OF CREDIT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY MR. HERBERT WALKER, GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF JAMAICA, AND MR. ARNE VALKER OF THE EXPORT CREDIT INSTITUTE OF THE NORWEGIAN COMMERCIAL BANKS LIMITED (EKSPORTFINANS). THE LINE OF CREDIT WAS OFFERED TO

JAMAICA IN DECEMBER 1977 AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NORWEGIAN/JAMAICAN JOINT COMMISSION IN KINGSTON. THE NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM FINANCING FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF NORWEGIAN EQUIPMENT AND KNOW-HOW. P.M. MANLEY SUGGESTED TO NORDLI THAT DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MAJOR PRIORITIES, SPECIFICALLY LAND AND FORESTRY PROGRAMS AND EXPLOITATION OF LIMESTONE AND GYPSUM. MANLEY NOTED NORWAY'S EXPERTISE IN FORESTRY-RELATED INDUSTRIES AND LIMESTONE-BASED CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

3. THE SHIPPING COOPERATION AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR TRAINING BOTH IN JAMAICA AND ABROAD FOR SEAMEN AND SHIPPING MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. MANLEY DESCRIBED THIS PROJECT AS A VITAL LINK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JAMAICAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION TO THE TRAINING ARRANGEMENT, THE PROJECT CALLS FOR A TECHNICAL TEAM TO PURSUE STUDIES TO DETERMINE OPTIMUM ROUTE STRUCTURE AND PORT HANDLING FACILITIES.

4. NORWAY'S SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD WAS CLEARLY STATED BY P.M. NORDLI. IN REMARKS AT THE STATE DINNER IN HIS HONOR, NORDLI SAID THAT "WE CANNOT HOPE FOR WORLD PEACE WITHOUT ELIMINATING THE GROSS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE OF OUR PRESENT ECONOMIC ORDER." HE NOTED THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME TO CHANGE THE BASIC CONDITIONS OF WORLD TRADE AND THE DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO ONE AND FOREVER SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS AND EACH, IN HIS OWN ENVIRONMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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MUST "WORK STEADILY AND PATIENTLY IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS." IN VOICING HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS WORLD FORA, NORDLI SAID THAT NORWAY WAS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE \$25 MILLION TO A COMMON FUND. REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA, MR. NORDLI SAID NORWAY SUPPORTED THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGAINST THE APARTHEID SYSTEMS, HAD STOPPED EXPORTS TO OPPRESSIVE REGIMES, AND SUPPORTED RESOLUTIONS FOR AN ARMS EMBARGO.

5. OTHER ASPECTS ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE NORDLI PARTY, THE NORWEGIANS HAD NO SPECIFIC GOALS IN MIND IN COMING HERE. IT WAS TO RETURN MANLEY'S VISIT TO NORWAY AND TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA'S DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE. THE NORWEGIANS, THIS OFFICIAL SAPB K WANTED TO BUY MORE ALUMINA FROM JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES BUT FOUND THERE WAS NOT MUCH AVAILABLE FROM THAT SOURCE. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS AND RECEPTIONS WITH GOJ PRIME MINISTER, GOVERNOR GENERAL, SEVERAL MINISTERS, AND OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA THE PROGRAM FOR P.M. AND MRS. NORDLI INCLUDED OBSERVATION OF BAUXITE MINING OPERATIONS, A TOUR OF HILLSIDE FARMING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, SIGHTSEEING, A JAMAICAN CULTURAL SHOW, AND THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY NORWEGIAN ARTIST EDVARD MUNCH.

P.M. NORDLI DEPARTED JAMAICA FROM MONTEGO BAY FOR WASHINGTON WHERE HE WILL ATTEND THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING.

6. COMMENT: A JOINT COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED LATE IN 1977 TO EXPLORE AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NORWAY AND JAMAICA (SEE REF B), POSSIBLY IN THE BAUXITE AND ALUMINA INDUSTRY AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE ON OIL EXPLORATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION. THE VISIT OF P.M. NORDLI BROUGHT CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF NORWEGIAN SUPPORT WITH THE PROSPECT OF A CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP IN JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED POLITICAL TOPICS BUT NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER THE GLEANER OBSERVED ACERBICLY THAT UP TO NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR JAMAICA WAS NOT POOR ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR A NORWEGIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM BUT IS POOR ENOUGH NOW. IN FACT THE TRUE POVERTY LEVEL OF JAMAICA IS CONCEALED BY HIGH FOREIGN INVESTMENT STATISTICS (WELL DESCRIBED IN REF B). THE GOJ CLEARLY CONVINCED THE NORWEGIANS THAT THEIR NEED AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE WERE ALL TOO REAL. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ANNOUNCED WAS A LOAN AGREEMENT. SOME GRANT AID MAY NEVERTHELESS BE FORTHCOMING. FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE UNDERWAY FOR HILLSIDE AGRICULTURE PROJECTS, INCLUDING FORESTRY. THE NORWEGIAN EXPERT INVOLVED INFORMED US THAT THE GOJ IS SEEKING MAJORITY FOREIGN FINANCING FOR WATERSHED SCHEMES, AND NORWAY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE US\$10 MILLION TO SUCH A PROGRAM, THEREBY COMPLEMENTING CURRENT USAID AND WORLD BANK EFFORTS. HAVERKAMP

NOTE BY OCT: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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